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digest of the recent decisions on the various points sought to be elucidated. Roughly speaking, one-third of the text is devoted to the construction of wills, there being chapters on "Actions for the Construction of Wills," "Controlling Principles," being little more than a statement of twelve rules of construction, followed by a somewhat extended discussion of the admissibility of extrinsic evidence to affect construction, "Description of Subject Matter," "Description of Beneficiary"; in these chapters the judicial constructions which have been placed on certain of the words commonly used in wills are briefly stated. Two chapters on the interests passed by the use of certain phrases, in which there is a discussion of "Remainders," "Conditions," "Testamentary Trusts and Powers." Beside the usual chapters embracing the history, definition and classification of wills, testamentary capacity, etc., there is a chapter entitled "Conflict of Laws," one on the "Probate of Wills" and one on "Election." Prof. Gardner has accomplished admirably the true purposes for which hornbooks are intended. It is a book for handy reference rather than a treatise, and the decisions, brought down to date, are compactly classified in such a way that they can be easily reached. It is not fair to call the book a mere digest of the latest cases; it is rather a lucid statement of principles, necessarily compact, with copious notes and references from which a more thorough investigation of the admirably classified principles may be made. The book has, however, it seems to us, attempted to cover too much ground, and by so doing has, to some extent, failed to give due prominence to the leading principles of the law of wills.

K. T.

The Art of Cross-Examination. By Francis Wellman, of the New York Bar. The Macmillan Company, New York. 1903. Cloth pp. 283.

The author has had a long experience in court practice, and he seeks to emphasize the importance of skill in cross-examination. Advocates eminent in the profession thoroughly realize that the issue of a cause depends far more upon the skill with which the cross-examination is conducted than upon a speech. Such skill can be acquired best by specializing. The tendency in this country, especially in New York City, is to have specially trained trial lawyers conduct the case in court, as is done in England. The best training is that of actual experience. Long practice enables one to be "at home" in the court room, and to understand all the little arts that mean so much in the final result of the issue. The subject is treated particularly as to the manner and the matter of cross-examination. The discussions are copiously illustrated by practical examples of cross-examination. The later chapters are devoted entirely to cross-examinations in some of the great trials of this country and England. Altogether the work is instructive, and at the same time unusually entertaining.

J. J. F.